

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/P - MR. LORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO MR E DONALD CHALLIS WELLS RICH GREENE INC 767 FIFTH
AVENUE NEW YORK CITY NY 10022

UNCLAS STATE 077604

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO BE READ AT DINNER TONIGHT HONORING
GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER

1. MR. CHALLIS: I DEEPLY REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO BE
WITH YOU TONIGHT TO HONOR GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER. PLEASE
DELIVER ON MY BEHALF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

2. IN HONORING NELSON ROCKEFELLER TONIGHT WE HONOR AS
WELL A GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY.. THE NAME ROCKEFELLER HAS
LONG BEEN SYNONOMOUS WITH DEDICATED SERVICE -- SERVICE
TO NEW YORK, SERVICE TO AMERICA, SERVICE TO ALL MANKIND.
THE ROCKEFELLER TRADITION OF DEVOTION TO HUMANITY IS AN
EXAMPLE TO US ALL. AND NELSON ROCKEFELLER SYMBOLIZES
THE VERY ESSENCE OF THAT TRADITION.

3. IT IS HARD FOR ME TO DESCRIBE WHAT WE OWE NELSON
ROCKEFELLER. HIS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE FIRST
TWO DECADES OF MY PUBLIC LIFE ARE WELL KNOWN. NOW I OWE
HIM MY WIFE AND THUS MY HAPPINESS FOR THE NEXT TWO
DECADES AND BEYOND.

4. BUT I HONOR NELSON FOR MORE THAN WHAT HE HAS MEANT TO
ME. WE HONOR HIM AS A STATESMAN. HE IS AN EXECUTIVE
NOT ONLY OF SKILL AND COURAGE BUT EVEN MORE, OF VISION
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THAT IS THE TRUE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP. HE HAS FACED

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS AN EXECUTIVE NOT SIMPLY OF
MANAGEMENT BUT OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GREAT PURPOSES.

5. AS A NATIONAL STATESMAN HE HAS HELPED AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS SHAPE THEIR FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD THE HEMIS-
PHERE AND THE WORLD. HE WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO PER-
CEIVE THE NEED TO GENERATE A NEW AMERICAN CONSENSUS TO
GUIDE THIS NATION OVER THE LAST THIRD OF THIS CENTURY.
OUR OWN FRIENDSHIP BEGAN WHEN I JOINED HIS STAFF IN 1956
IN THE SPECIAL STUDIES PROJECT TO IDENTIFY THE OPPOR-
TUNITIES AND THE CHALLENGES BEFORE THE UNITED STATES.
IT IS A MEASURE OF HIS VISION -- AND HIS REFUSAL TO BE
TURNED ASIDE BY MONUMENTAL TASKS -- THAT HIS SEARCH FOR
NATIONAL CONSENSUS HAS BEEN RENEWED IN THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON CRITICAL CHOICES FOR AMERICA.

6. IT IS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK
THAT NELSON ROCKEFELLER IS BEING HONORED TONIGHT. HE
HAS MANAGED A GOVERNMENT MORE VAST AND COMPLEX THAN
THAT OF ALL BUT A FEW FOREIGN NATIONS. AND HE HAS DONE
SO WITH HIS CUSTOMARY EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS.

7. HE THUS EXEMPLIFIES THE FINEST OF EXECUTIVE ABILITY,
AND IS THEREFORE A MOST FITTING RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD.

8. ALL THESE QUALITIES -- AND MANY MORE -- ARE A MATTER
OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE AND PUBLIC RECORD. BUT NELSON
ROCKEFELLER, MY PERSONAL FRIEND, IS AS DESERVING OF
PRAISE AND ADMIRATION AS NELSON ROCKEFELLER, STATESMAN
AND PUBLIC SERVANT. I KNOW OF NO FINER, MORE INSPIRING,
MORE COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING. KISSINGER

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